

+✂ 1923. ✂+

Carmarthen Urban Sanitary Authority.

51st Annual Report

ON THE

Sanitary Condition of the County of the
Borough of Carmarthen,

BY

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



CARMARTHEN :

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FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

A circular as to the contents and arrangements of the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health was issued by the Ministry of Health on the 28th of December, 1921, revising the particulars to be included, by the omission of details previously required, with a view to the curtailment of the cost of printing. A fuller report being called for at intervals of five years.

This report will, therefore, be drawn up in accordance with the instructions therein contained.

I. GENERAL STATISTICS.

AREA.

The Carmarthen Urban Sanitary District, constituting the County of the Borough of Carmarthen, comprises the Parish of St. Peter, having an area of 5,160 acres. The Town of Carmarthen itself occupies an area of about 400 acres, while the remaining portion of the district, occupying an area of about 4,760 acres, is of a rural character.

POPULATION.

According to the Census of 1911, the population of the district (including the Asylum) was 10,221, and the number of houses inhabited was 2,258, giving an average of 4.5 inhabitants to each house, or, excluding the Asylum, an average of 4.1.

According to the Census of 1921, the population was 10,011, shewing a decrease of 210.

The estimated population to the middle of 1923 is 10,110.

The number of inhabited houses in 1923 was 2,277, giving an average of 4.4 inhabitants to each house, or, excluding the inmates of the Asylum, numbering about 670, an average of 4.1.

The number of families or separate occupiers is estimated at 2,277.

The Rateable Value of the Borough of Carmarthen is £44,382.

The sum represented by a penny on the District Rate is £140, and on the Borough Rate, £160.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	Males.	Females.	
Births	Legitimate	... 176	88	88	} Birth-rate (R.G.)
	Illegitimate	.. 4	4	0	
					17·8.

Deaths 129 Death-rate (R.G.) 12·7

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth { from sepsis ... 0
 ,, other causes .. 1

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:—
 Legitimate, 73·8; Illegitimate, 0; Total, 72·2.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), 0.

,, Whooping Cough (all ages), 0.

,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 2.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which requires comment.

GENERAL MORTALITY.

Birth-rate, Death-rate and analysis of mortality during the year 1923.

		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 living.													
	Birth Rate per 1000 Total Population	Rate per 1000 Births.													
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza.	Violence	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under 1 year.	Percentage of Total Deaths.		
													Certified Causes	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death
Carmarthen Urban	17·8	12·7	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·09	0·00	0·39	0·19	72	95·3	4·6	0·0
All England and Wales	19·7	11·6	0·01	0·00	0·14	0·03	0·10	0·07	0·22	0·14	7·7	69	92·0	6·9	1·1

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1923.

Causes of Death.				Males.	Females.
(Civilians only).					
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	59	70
1. Enteric fever	...	...	..	...	...
2. Small-pox	...	..	..	...	...
3. Measles ..	...	..	...	...	...
4. Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	..
6. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1
7. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...
8. Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...
9. Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
10. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	2	6
11. Other tuberculous diseases	...	..	...	1	2
12. Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	6	8
13. Rheumatic fever	...	..	...	...	...
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2
15. Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c	...	...	...	2	3
16. Heart disease	...	...	...	16	19
17. Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	2	1
18. Bronchitis	..	...	...	3	6
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	6	4
20. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	1
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	1
22. Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1	1
23. Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...
24. Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	..	1	...
25. Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	6	5
26. Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...
27. Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	..	...	...	...	1
28. Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	4	1
29. Suicide	...	...	...	...	1
30. Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	3	1
31. Other defined diseases	...	...	...	6	6
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...
Special Causes (included above)					
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths of Infants (Total	...	...	...	7	6
under 1 year { Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL BIRTHS ..	...	...	..	92	88
Legitimate	...	...	...	88	88
Illegitimate...	...	...	...	4	..
POPULATION	...	...	...	...	... 10,110

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

RAINFALL IN 1923.

The following is a summary of the Record of the Rainfall kept at The Friary, Carmarthen, which is 61·9 feet above sea level :—

Month	Total Depth	Greatest fall in 24 Hours		Number of Days with	
		'01 in. or more	'04 in. or more		
	Inches	Inches	Date		
January	3·54	·77	5th	26	14
February	8·84	1·36	6th	27	23
March	2·29	·47	1st	17	14
April	2·97	·62	24th	20	14
May	2·99	·67	9th	20	16
June	1·19	·39	8th	13	6
July	2·72	·50	27th	21	15
August	5·16	1·30	23rd	26	17
September	4·42	·95	17th	24	16
October	7·67	·77	29th	30	23
November	5·60	1·58	13th	22	19
December	5·33	·74	1st	29	23
Total	52·72			275	200

Rainfall for the past five years:—

1919	...	...	...	42·68
1920	...	...	...	61·03
1921	...	...	...	37·70
1922	...	...	...	47·61
1923	...	...	...	52·72

A constant and adequate supply of water was maintained in the Borough during the year.

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

	CASES NOTIFIED.														DEATHS.													
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and over.	Total	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and over.	Total		
Diphtheria	...	1	..	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	..	1	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	2	..	...	2	1	2	9	2	...	1	..	...	19	..	...	..	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	..
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	0	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	...	...	..	..	..	..	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	..	..	..	...	1	1	...	...	2	1	..	...	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	5	2	10
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	..	...	...	..	0	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	..	...	..	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
TUBERCULOSIS.																												
(a) Pulmon- ary	...	..	...	..	...	1	1	...	2	4	1	1	10	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	..	1	...	...	...	1
F'male	..	...	..	...	...	..	..	1	1	5	2	..	9	...	..	...	..	..	...	..	1	2	1	1	...	5
(b) Non-Pul- monary	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	1	3	...	...	5	...	...	1	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
F'male	...	...	..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	2	...	...	...	2
Total	3	1	1	2	1	5	10	3	6	14	3	1	50	1	...	2	0	1	...	...	1	3	4	6	2	20

RATIO OF NON-NOTIFIED TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS TO TOTAL TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

Out of the 9 deaths registered from Tuberculosis in the year 1923, 6 were previously notified, and these were non-pulmonary.

Out of a total of 9 cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1923, 3 were notified by private practitioners, and 3 by the Tuberculosis Physician, under the control of the Welsh National Memorial. Early in the year 1922 all general practitioners in the area were circularized by the County Medical Officer of Health, reminding them of their obligations to notify Tuberculosis.

4. CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

No special noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity were observed in the district or by any of the local medical practitioners.

5. SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) General.—A District Nurse is available for attending to ordinary cases of sickness in the Borough, under the control of a District Nursing Association, consisting of ladies and gentlemen who contribute voluntarily to her support, assisted by a contribution of £50 a year from the Carmarthen Borough Education Committee for services rendered as School Nurse.

(b) For Infectious Diseases, e.g., Measles, etc.—Arrangements have been made by the Town Council with the above Association, whereby the services of the District Nurse have been secured by a contribution of £7 annually to their funds, so that her services may be utilised in any emergency, to nurse cases of Measles, &c., if called upon.

Midwives.—One qualified Midwife, who also carries out the duties of Health Visitor, is provided and paid for by the Urban Sanitary Authority, and one other recognised Midwife practises in the district.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—One Child Welfare and Maternity Centre, open every Monday afternoon, called the Carmarthen Borough Child Welfare Centre, situated at 113, Lammas Street, where two rooms are provided by the Urban Sanitary Authority.

No **Day Nursery** or **School Clinic** exists.

Tuberculosis.—One Tuberculosis Institute, with four rooms, at No. 1, Blue Street, provided by the Welsh National Memorial Association.

Venereal Disease.—No Centres exist, but arrangements for treatment are provided for at the Swansea Hospital, by a subsidy from the Carmarthen County Council.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council. (1) **Tuberculosis:** Sanatoria are provided by the Welsh National Memorial, subsidised by the County Council as follows:—West Wales Sanatorium, at Llan-ybyther, Carmarthenshire, for women and children only, preference being given to applicants from the three counties of Carmarthen, Pembroke and Cardigan. The South Wales Sanatorium, at Pontywal, near Talgarth, for men only, and the North Wales Sanatorium, at Llangwyfan, near Denbigh, for women, and Surgical Tuberculosis.

Hospitals for Tuberculosis are also available in different parts of the Principality, where patients, other than those suitable for Sanatorium treatment, may be sent to from the district.

(2) **Maternity.**—There is no Maternity Hospital, but arrangements have been come to between the Urban Sanitary Authority and the Committee of the Carmarthenshire Infirmary, whereby difficult cases of labour may be at once admitted into that Institution, should such arise.

(3) **Children.**—Children may be treated at the Carmarthenshire Infirmary.

(4). **Fever.**—There is no Infectious Hospital.

(5). **Small Pox.**—In view of the possibility of cases of Small Pox appearing, and there being no available means of isolation, a small committee of the Urban Council was appointed to meet representatives of the Rural Council to consider the question.

It was decided that a piece of land should be acquired by the joint Councils, at a nominal rent of £5 per annum, in an isolated position, in the parish of Llanllawddog, in the Rural District, and within easy access of the Town of Carmarthen, where a temporary structure could be erected in a few hours, for the purpose of isolating any case that might suddenly occur and a wooden detachable bungalow was purchased at a cost of £70, capable of providing accommodation for one or two male and female patients, with kitchen and sleeping accommodation for two nurses. Arrangements were come to with the Officials of the County Infirmary whereby nurses and bedding could be immediately provided, and the Medical Officer of

Health was given full power to provide the necessary furniture and stores locally. This arrangement is but a temporary one, to provide for any sudden emergency, pending the provision of a permanent Isolation Hospital by the County Authorities.

(6) The Carmarthenshire Infirmary, supported by voluntary contributions, is available for accidents and general diseases. It is situated in the Town of Carmarthen, and is capable of accommodating 29 adults, besides 6 children. No subsidy is provided by the Council.

There is no Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children, beyond that provided by the Poor Law at the Union Workhouse in the Borough.

Ambulance	{	(a) For infectious cases.	{	none
facilities		(b) For non-infectious and accident cases		exist.

6. LABORATORY WORK.

Eight samples of Milk were submitted for Pathological and Bacteriological examinations. No Tubercle Baccili were discovered in any of the samples submitted.

It has not been found necessary to provide antitoxin or other sera or vaccines during the year.

7. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The following Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Regulations, are in force in the Borough of Carmarthen :—

			Date of Adoption.
Infectious Diseases Prevention 1890	...	...	May, 1892
Common Lodging Houses Bye-laws	...	...	March, 1894
Nuisances in the Borough Bye-laws	...	...	October, 1894
New Streets and Buildings Bye-laws	...	...	June, 1895
Nuisances in the Borough Bye-laws	...	...	April, 1896
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order	..	..	October, 1899
New Streets and Buildings Bye-laws	...	...	June, 1901
Markets and Slaughter-houses Bye-laws...	...	...	May, 1905
Part III. Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1890			Jan., 1894
Certain Sections of Part 2, 3 and 4 of the Public Health Amendment Act 1907	...	..	Nov., 1913
Part V., do.	...	...	Sept., 1916
Section 30, do.	...	...	July, 1917

No. of dwelling-houses systematically visited	...	681
,, re-visited	...	1624

Notices were given verbally or served in the following cases of Defects or Nuisances discovered :—

To repair defective roofs	..	...	...	15
,, repair defective eavestroughs...	...	...	..	50
,, repair decayed floors	...	...	...	6
,, remove foul accumulations	...	...	...	12
,, abate overcrowding	...	...	...	11
,, pave and repair yards	...	...	...	34
,, cleanse and limewash premises	...	...	...	5

To remove earth bank at rear of premises	...	..	...	4
„ repair decayed window frames	...	...	...	2
„ repair fireplace	...	..	...	1
„ provide sash cords to windows	..	...	...	3
„ ventilate soil pipes	...	...	...	1

House Drains.

To re-lay drains	...	...	...	5
„ provide stoneware gullies	...	..	...	25
„ clean choked drains	...	...	..	20

Water Closets.

To provide additional W.C.'s	...	..	...	5
„ repair W.C.'s	...	...	...	39
„ provide short hopper pans	...	...	...	9
„ repair flushing cisterns	8

Water Supply.

To provide houses with water supply	7
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General.

To limewash cowsheds and sweep ceiling of cowsheds	11
„ limewash bakehouses	4
„ rooms fumigated	...	...	...	27

Clerical Work.

No. of Statutory notices served	...	...	23
„ complied with	...	...	21
„ informal and verbal notices served	...	...	208
„ complied with	...	...	198

Closet Accommodation.

The only system in vogue in the town itself is the Water Carriage, while in the Rural portions of the district the Pail Closet System is adopted, most of the houses possessing gardens, where the contents can be disposed of.

There are about 1,968 closets connected with the Water Carriage System, and about 219 Pail Closets. There are 10 cess-pools and 4 septic tanks, while 31 houses have closets emptying over streams.

No closets on the Conservancy System were converted into the Water Carriage System.

The following places where food is prepared were regularly inspected:—1 self-raising flour, packing warehouse; 1 butter blending and bacon-curing establishment; 20 bake-houses; 1 public registered slaughter-house. Condition satisfactory.

252lbs. of Chilled Beef and some Bullock's Lights were condemned as unfit for human food.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

The Thresh steam disinfecter was used 25 times during the year, and 27 houses were fumigated.

Action under Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops Order.

There are 59 registered Cow-keepers, who are also purveyors of milk, and there are 7 retail milk vendors, who are not Cow-keepers.

All have been regularly inspected. Eleven notices were served to ensure cleanliness. No legal action was required to be taken.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no houses let in lodgings, but there are two Common Lodging Houses in the town, viz., one in Water Street and one in Mill Street, and these are conducted satisfactorily.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

The following report, obtained from the Head Constable's Office, indicates the work done by the Local Authority under the above Acts:—

Forty samples of foods and drugs were taken during the year, made up as follows:—

British made butter	...	...	5
New Milk	...	...	23
Preserved Foods	...	...	6
Lemonade Powder	...	...	1
Bi-carbonate of Soda	...	...	1
Custard Powder	...	...	1
Corn Flour	...	...	1
Cocoa	...	...	1
Raisley Powder	...	...	1
<hr/>			
Total	...	...	40

Generally the results of the milk samples have not been so encouraging as in previous years. There were deficiencies in fats in two samples to the extent of 12 and 10 per cent. respectively. Proceedings were taken, but both cases were dismissed. Another case was in respect of added water to

the extent of 2 per cent. The vendor was cautioned. Two others, though of the legal standard, were reported as being of poor quality.

Public Health Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917.

Under the above Regulations nine samples of Milk were examined for the presence of preservativs, and all were found to be genuine.

No samples of Cream were submitted during the year.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The staff consists of Medical Officer of Health, D.P.H., London, part-time, who is also School M.O., Child Welfare M.O., and Rural District Council M.O.H., part of salary contributed; one Sanitary Inspector, whole time, certificated, part of salary contributed; one C.M.B., whole time Maternity Nurse and Health Visitor, assisted by 12 voluntary Health Visitors; one qualified District Nurse, who acts as School Nurse, part time, and, if required, as special Measles Nurse.

9. HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	6
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	...	...	...	0

1. *Unfit dwelling houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	681
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(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	41
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(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
--	-----	-----	-----	---

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	70
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2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	145
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—	
(a) by owners	0
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	241
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) by owners	221
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	0

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	0

Legal Proceedings.

It was found necessary to take legal proceedings against two owners of property in respect of three houses that were in a delapidated condition. These were eventually put in a proper state of repair.

During the year 1923, plans for erecting the following buildings were submitted to the Council:—

Dwelling houses	...	...	23
Alterations to existing Premises		...	11
New buildings other than dwellings		...	5
Garages	...	...	4
			—
Total	...	...	43

FORM A.

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT SANITARY DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR 1923.

			Number.	Tonnage.	Number inspected		Number reported to be defective.	Number of Orders issued.
					By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Insp'tor of Nuisances.		
FOREIGN	{ Steamers	...						
	{ Sailing	...						
	{ Fishing	...						
Total Foreign			...					
COASTWISE	{ Steamers	...	20	1337	3	19	0	0
	{ Sailing	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Fishing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Coastwise			...	22				
Total Foreign and Coastwise			...	22	1337	3	19	0

Ten Steamers and two Sailing Ships made 22 trips to the port of Carmarthen from different ports, mainly from Cardiff and Barry.

Cargoes consisted of Corn, Granite Chippings, Flour and General Cargoes.

FORM B.

There is nothing that is necessary to report with regard to the prevalence or destruction of rats.

L. M. BOWEN JONES, D.P.H. (Lond.)

Medical Officer of Health.

The Friary, Carmarthen,

16th April, 1924.

